

Labor Resources for Fairfax, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Fairfax, South Carolina. Fairfax is located in Allendale County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Fairfax.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Fairfax, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	29,438	68,335	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	10,088	25,042	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	975	2,260	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	9.7%	7.5%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	4	31	22,196
Average Wages	Allendale County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$568	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Fairfax, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	10,088	25,042	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-3,001	-5,281	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	29,438	68,335	4,198,068
Change since 2000	-317	-384	186,056
Projected 2010	31,248	72,679	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	14,816	33,949	2,040,261
Female	14,622	34,386	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	5,958	13,532	875,330
Ages 35-49	6,381	14,738	925,330
Ages 50-64	5,211	12,085	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	14,434	32,784	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	9,602	22,798	778,054
Some College	4,414	10,496	500,194
Associate Degree	1,402	3,367	173,428
Bachelors Degree	2,285	5,453	351,526
Post Bachelor	897	2,384	178,529

**Prime working age group:*
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and
Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Fairfax, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	9,112	22,782	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Allendale County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	7	75	12,379
Mining			1,603
Utilities	60	163	11,891
Construction	274	831	111,730
Manufacturing	2,046	4,508	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	323	509	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing			9,155
Primary metal manufacturing			6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	46	159	27,357
Machinery manufacturing		17	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing		6	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.			10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing		12	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing		1	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing			7,846
Food manufacturing	3	6	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills		29	40,207
Textile product mills			9,724
Apparel manufacturing			5,321
Paper manufacturing			14,710
Printing and related support activities		2	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	3	28	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	347	556	23,054
Wholesale Trade	169	372	62,523
Retail Trade	1,050	2,627	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	108	224	46,941
Education and Health Services	1,943	4,285	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	449	1,325	192,748
Professional and Business Services	167	523	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In <i>Allendale County</i>				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Collum's Lumber Products	Allendale	Lumber & wood chips	259	1936
Mohawk Industries	Ulmer	Spun carpet yarn	215	1970
Clariant	Martin	Dyestuffs	195	1978
International Apparel Group	Allendale	Ladies' shorts	85	1994
Fairfax Dimension Co	Fairfax	Furniture squares	75	1962
Corbett Plywood Corp	Fairfax	Veneer	50	1969
Little Red Logging Co	Allendale	Logging	22	1979

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	10,088	25,042	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-3,001	-5,281	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	34%	37%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	975	2,260	139,607
Unemployment Rate	9.7%	7.5%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	4	31	22,196
Manufacturing		6	19,196
Distribution	4	26	1,213
Service	-	-	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	3,854	9,604	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Allendale County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	34
Data Processing Technology	34
Engineering Technologies (Total)	17
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	*
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	33
Industrial Electronics	20
HVAC	*
Precision Production (Total)	22
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	1

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Allendale County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$568	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$29,554	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Allendale County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$31,439	\$39,027
Wood product	\$28,047	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	***	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	***	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Fairfax and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Allendale County Area*			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$7.36	\$8.39	\$9.10
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$6.25	\$8.43	\$11.73
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$6.89	\$9.14	\$10.53
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$6.50	\$7.54	\$8.49
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$11.16	\$14.53	\$17.30
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.28	\$17.73	\$22.53
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$11.41	\$12.38	\$13.47
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$12.66	\$16.02	\$19.13
Machinists	\$11.77	\$14.94	\$16.63
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.35	\$12.93	\$16.16
Molding & Casting Machine Op	*	*	*
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.10	\$7.40	\$8.62
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.20	\$10.33	\$11.58
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.15	\$15.62	\$18.02
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$12.30	\$15.78	\$18.86
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$6.21	\$7.89	\$9.66
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Allendale County Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$67,760	\$76,060	\$88,260
Computer Programmers	*	*	*
Engineers, NEC	\$70,360	\$75,740	\$85,860
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$32,120	\$44,000	\$56,040
Industrial Engineers	*	*	*
Mechanical Engineers	*	*	*

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available